



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

OCT 2015

IMPORTANT DATES

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From the Commander's pen

Hello Fellow Veterans. It has been a busy month. I attended the National Convention in Baltimore. The much needed dues increase from National was approved. It keeps our programs solvent on the National level. Each post should review their dues to be sure they stay solvent.

Next was a membership rally at Legionville with a rededication of the facility. Membership is doing well but we need to speed up a bit if we want to be number one. Remember to check your local armory for potential members.

I attended a day of instruction at Camp Ripley. Included were a lecture on pain management, discussions on Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, financing the ROTC program, and scholarships. We discussed awards for top reservist, top policeman and top firefighter. Every district should have a nominee. Keep your eyes open for candidates.

Mark your calendars for Fall Conference at Breezy Point on October 22 to the 24th about noon. Remember to thank a veteran.

Roland Hanson
First District Commander

Sept 26, 2015 - Area One Rally in Mazeppa Post 588. Times are 3:00 PM social and 4:00PM rally.

Oct 10, 2015—Department training open to all members at Post 132 in New Ulm, MN from 10am to 3pm.

Oct 17, 2015 - The District Fall Rally at American Legion Post 91 in Austin, MN. 9:00 am Executive Boards with a 10:00 am Rally.

Oct 23 & 24, 2015 - Department Fall Conference at Pequot Lakes. More information may be found in the Flyers section of this newsletter.

VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

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Attention First District Commanders, Adjutants, and Membership

At the 2015 American Legion National Convention, a national per capita dues increase of \$5 was approved, raising the National dues from \$13.50 to \$18.50 effective January 16, 2016. This meaning the Post will need to send in \$31.75 for each member after that date. If your post dues will not cover the increase, you can increase your dues by filling out a Post Special Data Report, mailing to Department three weeks before the next renewal notice goes out, and it will show your increase. I will have forms and answer questions at our Fall Rally in Austin on October 17th.

Another note, I will be bringing forth a resolution to increase our First District Dues by \$1 at the District Executive Board meeting for concurrent action, to go into effect with the 2017 membership year. The District needs positive cash flow to operate, since 2008 when our membership was at 12,544 to present 2015 total of 9569 our income for projects, stipends programs has declined by \$7500. The budget over the years has been maintained at bare essential, no room for any more cuts, a increase in District dues is needed.

**William B. Goede
District Finance Officer**

FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The First District newsletter can be found on these post web sites. Please go to them and have a look. It not only will give you access to the newsletter but also to the events happening at each of these posts. They are as follows:

Albert Lea Post 56 at americanlegionpost56.com

Austin Post 91 at austinp91.com

Rochester Post 92 at post92.org

Winona Post 9 at americalegionwinona.org (click on windjammer tab)

THE NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE MAILED OUT ANYMORE. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO WANTS IT E-MAILED TO THEM PLEASE HAVE THEM SEND THEIR NAME AND E-MAIL ADDRESS TO THE DISTRICT ADJUANT WHO'S INFOR-

Greetings from Area One:

Remember the National per capita dues for 2015-2016 will be increasing by \$5. Currently the national per capita dues is \$13.50 and will go up to \$18.50 on January 20. Do not wait till January 20 to send in your renewals it will cost your post \$5. "Dues paid at the old rate of \$13.50 shall be accepted if remitted by the Departments to the National Organization by close of business January 20, 2016."

Remember, it is the responsibility of all Legion Members to recruit new members. Just imagine if each member signed up just one new member

Please remember Lavonne Skillestad in your prayers. At last report from Richard, Lavonne was still in St Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

I look forward to visiting your Post, and feel free to contact me. Remember our troops and their loved ones in your prayers. May God Bless America.

Area One Vice Commander Joe P Brown, Sr

FROM YOUR AREA FOUR VICE COMMANDER

September 2015 was a very busy month. I attended the American Legion National Convention in Baltimore. The parade on Sunday night was very nice.

The Convention meetings started on Monday morning and continued through Thursday morning. I also attended the National Commander's Dinner during the convention.

I was in Legionville from Thursday September 10th thru September 12th for the annual legion Camp O Ree. I helped cook steaks for the First District Legionville fundraiser on Thursday night and we ran a golf contest for the closest to the pin on Saturday. Both events we well attended and the proceeds were donated to Legionville.

I help prepare the dinner for the Emmons post membership dinner.

I was invited and attended the Glenville post membership dinner.

I also attended the First District membership rally at the Mazepa American Legion Post 588 on Saturday September 26, 2015.

The First District is preparing for a membership revitalization to be held at Albert Lea post 56 on November 3rd, 4th, and 5th 2015. More information will be forth-coming.

God Bless our troops and keep them safe.

Area Four Vice Commander
Arnold Troe

Greetings from Area Three,

I want to take this time to thank the Posts for sending in the memberships that have been received in the last month. Keep up the good work and don't forget to contact the snow birds before they head south.

District One has sent out a letter to each Post telling them of a training program that is being held on Oct. 10th at New Ulm, Minnesota from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. I would like to emphasize that this a very important training program for an officer in the American Legion. It will be a training program on how to fill out the paper work that goes in each year from the Post and when it is to be sent. At the same time the program will consist of information on the Four Pillars that the American Legion was built on. I would like to see one officer from each Post in attendance. Lunch will be served at the session. We will also cover the mileage for one car per Post. I hope to see many of you there.

As always, keep our men and women in uniform in our prayers.

Carroll Hill, Vice Commander
Area Three

AREA TWO VICE COMMANDER

Just a quick hi from your Area Two vice Commander. Keep up the great work on membership and remember to get the snow bird before they head south.

Keep our troops in your prayers and God Bless America

Gene (The Sarge) Luedtke

Area Two Vice Commander

POST EVENT

All you can eat

"Fish and all the trimmings".

October 10, 2015

Eyota Legion

5 to 8 pm

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings First District:

“Service to God and Country” – it’s an American Legion program, yes, but the saying describes just as well our members’ attitude and way of life. Nondenominational and non-sectarian, the Legion’s support for religion in the public square is basic Americanism. Rather than acting independently of religious groups, the Legion desires to cooperate with and join them in reminding the American people with one voice that God is the author and architect of our beloved “land of the free.” Without God, there is no Americanism.

This time is about the changelessness of Gods word. The Word is for many unpalatable because it interferes with how they want to be. It shows us our hopeless condition and only through God's grace through Christ are we saved. Ephesians says what we need, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms". Therefore put on the whole armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, and with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

Let us move forward and execute the programs of the American Legion with all the earnestness and zeal we can muster, for if we don't teach, lead, and set the example, someone else will.

Thank you for allowing me to humbly serve,
 Ralph Schneekloth
 MN First District Chaplain

ALSO - Past District President Michelle Weaver’s mother passed away on Tuesday September 29 so please keep her and her family in your prayers.

First District Membership Report For 9/17/2015

POST	CITY	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	PERCENT	LEFT	Turn In Date
9	Winona	668	415	36	451	67.51%	217	9/17/2015
90	Lewiston	79	38	6	44	55.70%	35	9/17/2015
190	St Charles	150	78	33	111	74.00%	39	9/17/2005
Winona County Totals		897	531	75	606	67.56%	291	9/17/2015
50	Wabasha	322	127	74	201	62.42%	121	9/17/2015
110	Lake City	160	98	23	121	75.63%	39	9/17/2015
179	Plainview	202	106	31	137	67.82%	65	9/17/2015
546	Kellogg	71	31	11	42	59.15%	29	9/17/2015
573	Elgin	45	24	9	33	73.33%	12	9/17/2015
579	Millville	135	84	27	111	82.22%	24	9/17/2015
588	Mazeppa	85	43	12	55	64.71%	30	9/17/2015
Wabasha County Totals		1020	513	187	700	68.63%	320	9/17/2015
92	Rochester	1043	541	109	650	62.32%	393	9/17/2015
119	Byron	154	77	22	99	64.29%	55	9/17/2015
164	Stewartville	330	184	32	216	65.45%	114	9/17/2015
446	Rochester	11	8	5	13	118.18%	-2	9/17/2015
551	Eyota	179	101	15	116	64.80%	63	9/17/2015
Olmstead County Totals		1717	911	183	1094	63.72%	623	9/17/2015
Area One Totals		3634	1955	445	2400	66.04%	1234	9/17/2015
295	West Concord	69	31	12	43	62.32%	26	9/17/2015
330	Hayfield	240	123	29	152	63.33%	88	9/17/2015
333	Kasson	275	157	51	208	75.64%	67	9/17/2015
384	Dodge Center	94	56	10	66	70.21%	28	9/17/2015
422	Claremont	37	10	19	29	78.38%	8	9/17/2015
Dodge County Totals		715	377	121	498	69.65%	217	9/17/2015
52	Blooming Prairie	120	58	15	73	60.83%	47	9/17/2015
77	Owatonna	605	301	76	377	62.31%	228	9/17/2015
296	Ellendale	28	13	1	14	50.00%	14	9/17/2015
Steele County Totals		753	372	92	464	61.62%	289	9/17/2015
75	New Richland	70	37	10	47	67.14%	23	9/17/2015
228	Waseca	347	211	34	245	70.61%	102	9/17/2015
281	Janesville	110	67	11	78	70.91%	32	9/17/2015
587	Waldorf	28	15	2	17	60.71%	11	8/20/2015
Waseca County Totals		555	330	57	387	69.73%	168	9/17/2015
Area Two Totals		2023	1079	270	1349	66.68%	674	9/17/2015

40	Lanesboro	103	49	22	71	68.93%	32	9/17/2015
68	Spring Valley	84	51	11	62	73.81%	22	9/17/2015
81	Harmony	36	15	5	20	55.56%	16	9/17/2015
94	Rushford	142	65	12	77	54.23%	65	9/17/2015
166	Preston	81	35	22	57	70.37%	24	9/17/2015
197	Chatfield	54	40	4	44	81.48%	10	9/17/2015
299	Mabel	192	74	39	113	58.85%	79	9/17/2015
369	Wykoff	21	18	2	20	95.24%	1	9/17/2015
400	Canton	18	5	1	6	33.33%	12	9/17/2015
492	Fountain	19	1	0	1	5.26%	18	7/29/2015
526	Peterson	35	17	6	23	65.71%	12	9/17/2015
544	Ostrander	25	13	3	16	64.00%	9	9/17/2015
637	Whalen	15	11	3	14	93.33%	1	9/17/2015
Fillmore County Totals		825	394	130	524	63.52%	301	9/17/2015
191	Caledonia	179	121	30	151	84.36%	28	9/17/2015
249	Spring Grove	171	7	85	92	53.80%	79	9/17/2015
423	Houston	114	46	15	61	53.51%	53	9/17/2015
498	Hokah	21	15	2	17	80.95%	4	9/17/2015
595	LaCrescent	365	169	65	234	64.11%	131	9/17/2015
Houston County Totals		850	358	197	555	65.29%	295	9/17/2015
Area Three Totals		1675	752	327	1079	64.42%	596	9/17/2015
56	Albert Lea	739	443	71	514	69.55%	225	9/17/2015
264	Glenville	90	33	14	47	52.22%	43	9/17/2015
266	Hartland	20	17	1	18	90.00%	2	9/17/2015
317	Emmons	76	35	7	42	55.26%	34	9/17/2015
404	Alden	106	53	21	74	69.81%	32	9/17/2015
552	Freeborn	40	24	9	33	82.50%	7	9/17/2015
Freeborn County Totals		1071	605	123	728	67.97%	343	9/17/2015
91	Austin	700	341	96	437	62.43%	263	9/17/2015
105	Lyle	97	37	11	48	49.48%	49	9/17/2015
140	Grand Meadow	50	29	11	40	80.00%	10	9/17/2015
146	Adams	216	118	19	137	63.43%	79	9/17/2015
161	LeRoy	73	30	4	34	46.58%	39	9/17/2015
570	Austin Spam	6	1	4	5	83.33%	1	7/29/2015
Mower County Totals		1142	556	145	701	61.38%	441	9/17/2015
Area Four Totals		2213	1161	268	1429	64.57%	784	9/17/2015
1111	Dakota	82			0	0.00%	82	
District One Totals		9627	4947	1310	6257	64.99%	3370	9/4/2015

AREA VICE COMMANDER STANDINGS								
AREA ONE	3634	1955	445	2400	66.04%	1234	9/17/2015	
AREA TWO	2023	1079	270	1349	66.68%	674	9/17/2015	
AREA THREE	1675	752	327	1079	64.42%	596	9/17/2015	
AREA FOUR	2213	1161	268	1429	64.57%	784	9/17/2015	

Revitalization

Revitalization

Revitalization

Area Four is going to have a revitalization of membership **November 3rd, 4th, and 5th**. A National American Legion Membership representative will be in Albert Lea at Post #56 to help us recruit past and Post at Large members. Prospective members who live in either Freeborn or Mower County will be notified by letter telling them that they will be contacted by us on those days. We need members from each post in Area Four (4) to be in Albert Lea for the purpose of making phone calls and contact with these personal. Please contact Commander Rollie, Adjutant Junior, or myself, Les Shaunce (Membership Director) to help in this very important project.

Les Shaunce – First District American Legion Membership Director

ORATORICAL CONTEST INFORMATION

I am emailing to let you know that the materials your Posts and Auxiliary would have typically received by now, are a bit delayed. They were only received by the Department last week, and as a new Chairman and Vice – we are still in our planning phase regarding locations, etc.

I am attaching the Oratorical rules, brochure and the 2015-16 Assigned Topics that may be downloaded/reproduced by you as needed. The Post/Auxiliary information will be mailed to them as soon as the Department contest locations are designated, of which you will be notified as well. We would like you to have completed your District Oratorical Contest by **January 31, 2016**.

Our National motto for the Oratorical Contest is “Recruit, Recruit, Recruit!” The funds are allocated for scholarships; it would be a shame to not send a candidate forward who will benefit tremendously by, first – participation in this program and the knowledge they will gain regarding the laws of our land, and second – the scholarship monies they may receive for participation at the District, Department and National Contests.

Please encourage participation by all of your posts. The competition at the post level can be less formal, and the contestant is permitted to use their notes during their oration. The District level competitions will be run in accordance with the Department rules – no notes and the contestant will be prepared to do an oration on one of the 4 assigned topics; in the same basic format as the Department and National Contests. We are asking you to ensure your respective posts reach out to the schools and school districts to get the word out about this great opportunity for scholarship funds! Don't forget your home-schooled participants – we've had a number of those kids participate over the years. Any student, grades 9-12, are eligible! The teachers are our biggest assets with regard to judging your local and district contests, and to getting the word to students!

We look forward to working with you this year! Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions!

Sincerely,

Sy Fix

First District Oratorical Chairman

Deb Norman

MN Department Oratorical Chairman

Linda Dvorak

MN Department Oratorical Vice Chair

National Americanism Commission of The American Legion

THE AMERICAN LEGION High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

"A Constitutional Speech Contest"



Official Rules

> 2015-2016

Stock# 22-005 A-Work# 07ACY0315

General information

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.

Scholarships

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the final round of the national contest as follows: **1st place: \$18,000; 2nd place: \$16,000; 3rd place: \$14,000.** Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the national contest will receive a **\$1,500 scholarship.** Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional **\$1,500** scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.

The national organization of The American Legion will award scholarships to the three finalists, department winners, and first round winners who are eliminated during the second round of competition. These scholarships may be used to attend any college or university in the United States.

A contestant must give both his or her prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse to receive the scholarship.

In addition to the scholarships awarded by the national organization, there are several hundred scholarships awarded at the discretion of intermediate organizations, to participants at post, district or county, and department levels of competition.

Department contests

Arrangements for contests leading to the department finals shall be the responsibility of each department (state) organization of The American Legion. For those levels of competition prior to the department finals, the rules and regulations set forth in this brochure are not mandatory — they are offered as a guideline. However, all department finals contests shall conform with national contest procedures, rules and regulations, if the department wishes its finalist to compete in the national finals.

A winner certified to the National Americanism Division of The American Legion by a department which did not conduct its final competition in conformity with the rules and regulations as set forth herein may, in the judgment of the director of the Americanism Division or the director's representative, be disqualified from competition in the national contest.

Each department may certify one contestant into the national contest. If for any reason the department winner is unable to compete in the national contest, the department first runner-up may be substituted following approval by The American Legion's National Americanism Commission. A department first runner-up accepted into national competition will be entitled to all national awards, entitlements and compensation that the department winner would have received had he/she participated at that level.

Department contest winners must be certified to the National Americanism Division, The American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 NO LATER THAN MARCH 18, 2016.

Failure to meet this deadline could result in disqualification of the contestant.

For information about the oratorical contests in your state, contact your American Legion post or state headquarters.

Eligibility

Eligible participants in the contest shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States.

All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school), commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest.

High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department (state) where they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition in only one department.

The three finalists of the national contest will be ineligible for further participation at any level.

Prepared oration

The prepared oration must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The same subject and oration used in the department contest must be used in the national contest.

The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight minutes or more than 10 minutes for delivery.

Contestants may have in their possession a copy of their prepared oration in the first holding room. The copy may be in electronic or paper form. They may consult the copy of their prepared oration, until they exit the holding room in order to begin the contest, at which time the copy of the prepared oration will be surrendered to the contest official who is monitoring the first holding room.

Assigned topic

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three minutes or more than five minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

The assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his/her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five minutes prior to the time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States, as listed under assigned topics for the current year's contest in this brochure.

No foreign languages or songs

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic.

It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases of a foreign language into the prepared oration and/or assigned topic in order to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. The vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must be delivered in the English language.

Also, the singing of a song in any language is not permitted and will result in the immediate disqualification of the contestant. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song provided proper attribution is made.

In the prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than 10 words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

Assigned topics for 2016

Amendment 8: Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment 26: Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Article 1 Section 9 Paragraph 2: The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

Article 1 Section 6 Clause 1: The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.



The top three contestants in the 2015 High School Oratorical Scholarship Program display their awards.

*First Place:
Geeta P. Minocha - FL
(center)*

*Second Place:
Rowan P. Macwan - IL (left)*

*Third Place:
Emma M. Skahill - IA (right)*

Photo — Lucas Carter

Contest regulations

A drawing shall be held by the official in charge of the contest to determine the order in which the contestants will appear. The contest chairman shall announce the title of the contestant's prepared oration immediately after introducing him/her as contestant No. 1, contestant No. 2, etc. The chairman will request the audience to refrain from applause until the judges have made their decision.

A raised platform is not compulsory; however, it is strongly recommended. **The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker's stand by contestants or prompting in any manner is not permitted. Props are not permitted.**

The use of any type of electronic/digital data gathering, receiving and/or transmitting equipment in any form by contestants or members of the audience is prohibited.

The time allotted for each contestant to deliver their prepared oration shall not be less than eight or more than 10 minutes, and for the assigned topic, not less than three or more than five minutes.

An official timer shall be named by the contest chairman whose duty it shall be to keep an accurate time record of each contestant, and he shall be located on the main floor in full view of the contestants. The timekeeper shall begin timing each contestant at the start of the prepared oration. The timer should be equipped with a stopwatch and time cards for the prepared oration carrying the figures 8, 9 and 10. When eight minutes have been used, the time warning card with the figure 8 thereon shall be placed in full view of the speaker, following with 9 and 10 as the speaker progresses. The same procedure shall be used with cards bearing 3, 4 and 5 during the assigned topic discourse. The contest chairman shall

announce the time consumed by each contestant for the prepared oration and the assigned topic immediately after each contestant speaks for the benefit of the judges.

Contestants are required to remain in a private room, where the discourse of the other speakers cannot be heard, until it is their turn to speak (contestants will be under the supervision of an individual appointed by the contest chairman). As the contestants conclude their prepared orations, they must return to a soundproof holding room. As each speaker concludes his or her assigned topic discourse, they shall not be allowed to associate with contestants who have not fulfilled the assigned topic requirement.

Approximately five minutes prior to the time of the delivery of the assigned topic discourse, contestant No. 1 will be informed of the topic drawn for the assigned topic and shall be permitted to retire to privacy under the direction of an individual appointed by the contest chairman, whose duty it shall be to see that no contestant is permitted to consult any text matter or notes having any connection with the subject matter upon which he/she is to speak, other than the actual words of the topic provided on the card drawn.

Each succeeding contestant will be called upon in the order in which he/she previously appeared. He/she shall also, in turn, be informed of the topic of the assigned topic discourse and shall then be escorted to privacy in the manner as provided for contestant No. 1.

Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is to be worn by all contestants. Contestants are not permitted to wear awards and medals from previous competitions.

Travel expenses

The national organization of The American Legion will pay the travel and lodging expenses of department winners and their chaperones to the national contest. **All contestants must be accompanied by a chaperone over 21 years of age.**

The national organization of The American Legion will not assume liability for personal injury, property damage or loss sustained by any contestant or chaperone en route to or from the contest; however, The American Legion does carry a nominal group accident insurance policy on contestants certified into the national competition. Contestants will travel by an air carrier selected by the national organization of The American Legion or personal automobile if previously approved by the national organization of The American Legion.

TV and radio

Live television and radio broadcasts are permitted in all contests as well as taping or other types of media for later showing, provided: 1) the lighting and other site conditions are the same for all contestants; 2) the taping or broadcasts shall in no way distract the contestants or interfere with the announced scheduled time of the contest; 3) the normal speaking voice of the contestant is not interfered with or amplified within the auditorium; and 4) The American Legion is in no way financially obligated without its prior approval.

Judges

The judges are an integral part of the oratorical contest. Their qualifications are considered carefully as the decision of the judges is final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging in all contests is the key to fairness and success of the program which results in the selection of a national champion.

All department finals and the national contest must use five judges. No publicity shall be given to the names of the judges in advance of the contest. During the contest, the judges will be seated in different locations in the auditorium and each judge shall render his or her final decision without consultation with other judges or any other person.

Judges will be advised that a lack of emphasis in the prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government must result in their downgrading the contestant. Judges are permitted to

downgrade a contestant up to a maximum of 10 points for failure to speak about the Constitution. The contest chairman will announce any violation of time for each contestant. A penalty of one point for each minute, or fraction thereof, shall be assessed against the contestant's total score.

The judges, timekeepers, tabulators and the contest chairman, following the last assigned topic discourse, may proceed to a private room for final review and tabulation. **The decision of the judges is final.**

Tabulators

The contest chairman will appoint no less than three tabulators for the department finals contest. It will be their responsibility to review the judges' scorecards to be certain they are fully tabulated and signed before they are submitted for final tabulation.

Judges' scorecards for department finals and the national contest will not be divulged to anyone at the site of the contest. The judges' scorecards become the property of The American Legion National Headquarters.

National finals contest

- The national finals contest will be held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West April 15-17, 2016, in Indianapolis. Quarter-final and semi-final contests are scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 16. The championship is scheduled for Sunday, April 17.
- All contestants and chaperones will arrive on the Friday of the contest weekend. All contestants will be lodged at a hotel to be determined in Indianapolis.
- A mandatory pre-contest orientation session for all contestants will be held the Friday evening of the contest weekend.
- A banquet honoring all contestants will be held the Sunday afternoon of the contest weekend.
- All contestants and chaperones will depart for home late Sunday afternoon.

For more information

Individuals interested in learning more about the contest should contact:

- For dates, sites and deadline information concerning local, district and state level competition, individuals should contact their nearby American Legion post or their state headquarters office of The American Legion.
- For information concerning the national contest, contact: Americanism Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055; telephone (317) 630-1204; or e-mail oratorical@legion.org.

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

President

Pat Miner
PO box 136
Rose Creek, MN 55970
507/433/1326 or 507/251/9219
minerpa24@gmail.com

To Baltimore and back I went.
From Minneapolis to Chicago
to Baltimore
And then home after waiting
for airplanes to arrive.

It was a wonderful trip with my son-in-law Wayne Isenberg and then daughter JoEllen (I always travel with a companion when Marvin is unavailable).

The meetings were great and very informative as the Auxiliary looks forward to the 100th anniversary in 2018.

Everyone should have their membership packets let's use them to move membership along and promote our Auxiliary programs also.

The Department Fall Conference in Pequot Lakes is on October 22-24 and I hoping to see some members from the First District there. This is a school of instruction and we learn about the Auxiliary programs and have always come back with great ideas.

Some things to look forward to in October is a Department Informational Enrichment Session in New Ulm, Minnesota on October 10th meetings starts at 10 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m. with lunch at noon check the Department web page for more details: mnala.org.

My theme for the year is: Supporting our Troops

My project is: Soldiers Wings Southeast Minnesota (I have business cards from this organization if you would like one please contact me)

My symbol is: An angel named Faith (This for my grand-daughter Faith Miller who is currently in the Marines)

I would like to raise funds in the amount of \$1200.00 or more for items that are needed or the postage to send packages.

Secretary

Gloria Njos
PO Box 195
Waltam, MN 55982
507/477/3259

Membership / First Vice

Cindy Nelson
91 14th St N
Northwood, IA 50459
507/383/0082
tindylou@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Audrey Farnsworth
302 1st St E
Stewartville, MN 55976
507/533/4454
harlee@charter.net

Some dates for upcoming District functions:

District Fall Rally: October 17 in Austin starting at 9:00 a.m. with Executive meeting rally starts at 10:00 a.m.

Area 2 Rally: November 14 in Hayfield.

American Education Week is November 16-20 support the schools and those who work there.

Pat Miner

A reminder to All Units of 1st District (President/Treasurer)

As you know, the American Legion Auxiliary is a membership organization. Our budgets are set on membership. Per capita is what allows the District to meet their obligations.

Every year we lose members. Why?? This is not all due to death. We need to Renew-Recruit-Rejoin members. I'm sure that each of you know one person that is eligible for membership in our auxiliary. Do not hesitate to ask them to join.

Membership chairman Cindy is hoping to get the 1st District back on top. If we all work together, great things can be accomplished.

Enclosed in this mailing is a listing of your UNITS per capita for 2015-2016. Your per capita is based on your membership as of July 31, 2015. (Membership x \$1.25) On this same sheet, you will note every Unit has District Junior dues of \$10.00.

Please mail your per capita and district junior dues to me, NOT the Department. Let's get this done early this year. Some units wait until April. It then becomes crunch time as the books get audited in early May so as to have a preliminary report for District Convention.

Your donation to the District Presidents project, Honorary Junior Presidents project, memorials, etc, should be mailed to me also.

Make your check out to the First District ALA (American Legion Auxiliary).

I am your new treasurer this year and my name and address is:

Audrey Farnsworth	email: harlee@charter.net
302 First St. E.	Phone – 507-533-4454
Stewartville, MN 55976	

It is my hope that all Units from the 1st District have filed the Form 990-N with the IRS (for tax-exempt status). Your Unit President should be aware that this is filed annually. All Units in the Department of Minnesota have to file this form.

Let's get the checks in the mail and meet our obligations early. Let's make President Pat and the First District proud of our great organization!

Audrey Farnsworth, 1st District Treasurer

To all Units in First District – this is an annual fee for each unit-

This is the per capita amount for 2015-2016. Every unit has an annual \$10.00 District Junior

Fee also. Please double check to make sure my math is correct. Please review the budget to see how it is broke down and how your district dollars are spent. ***This will only be printed this mailing – so, please keep for future reference and inform your unit treasurer.***

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Per Capita</u>	<u>Jr. Dues</u>	<u>Total Members</u>
Adams	\$183.75	\$10.00	147
Albert Lea	\$460.00	\$10.00	368
Alden	\$66.25	\$10.00	53
Austin	\$225.00	\$10.00	180
Blooming Prairie	\$155.00	\$10.00	124
Byron	\$120.00	\$10.00	96
Caledonia	\$102.50	\$10.00	82
Chatfield	\$45.00	\$10.00	36
Claremont	\$32.50	\$10.00	26
Dodge Center	\$113.75	\$10.00	91
Elgin	\$32.50	\$10.00	26
Emmons	\$37.50	\$10.00	30
Eyota	\$153.75	\$10.00	123
Freeborn	\$80.00	\$10.00	64
Glenville	\$133.75	\$10.00	107
Grand Meadow	\$96.25	\$10.00	77
Harmony	\$55.00	\$10.00	44
Hayfield	\$277.50	\$10.00	222
Hokah	\$25.00	\$10.00	20
Houston	\$170.00	\$10.00	136
Janesville	\$76.25	\$10.00	61
Kasson	\$191.25	\$10.00	153
Kellogg	\$181.25	\$10.00	145
LaCrescent	\$280.00	\$10.00	224
Lake City	\$111.25	\$10.00	89

Lanesboro	\$116.25	\$10.00	93
Leroy	\$90.00	\$10.00	72
Lewiston	\$50.00	\$10.00	40
Lyle	\$70.00	\$10.00	56
Mabel	\$176.25	\$10.00	141
Mazeppa	\$66.25	\$10.00	53
Millville	\$61.25	\$10.00	49
New Richland	\$86.25	\$10.00	69
Ostrander	\$20.00	\$10.00	16
Owatonna	\$160.00	\$10.00	128
Peterson	\$41.25	\$10.00	33
Plainview	\$230.00	\$10.00	184
Rochester	\$227.50	\$10.00	182
Rushford	\$87.50	\$10.00	70
Spring Grove	\$168.75	\$10.00	135
Spring Valley	\$58.75	\$10.00	47
St. Charles	\$120.00	\$10.00	96
Stewartville	\$226.25	\$10.00	181
Wabasha	\$182.50	\$10.00	146
Waldorf	\$36.25	\$10.00	29
Waseca	\$301.25	\$10.00	241
West Concord	\$48.75	\$10.00	39
Whalen	\$28.75	\$10.00	23
Winona	\$242.50	\$10.00	194
Wykoff	<u>\$20.00</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>	<u>16</u>
TOTAL	\$6,321.25	\$500.00	5,057

BUDGET ITEMS	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
President's travel, postage and phone	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00
Newsletter	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$600.00	\$300.00
Membership Chairman	\$350.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$225.00	\$350.00
Executive Committee Mileage	\$500.00	\$600.00	\$659.20	\$585.37	\$659.10	\$816.80
Fall Rally Speakers and Lunch	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$56.00	\$40.00
Poppy Poster Awards	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Poppy Contests (Mid-Winter & Dist. Conv)	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
District Secretary to Dept. Fall Conf.	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
District Treasurer (to be paid in Oct. & May)	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Dist. Sgt-At-Arms to Dept. Fall Conf.	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
Dist. Color Bearer to Dept. Fall Conf.	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Dist. Secretary to Dept. Convention	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Dist. Sgt-At-Arms to Dept. Convention	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
Dist. Color Bearer to Dept. Convention	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Past District President's Pin	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
District President's Picture	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
District Gift to Department President	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Chaplain	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Finance Committee	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Miscellaneous	\$20.00	\$4.00	\$4.00			
TOTAL	\$5,850.00	\$5,804.00	\$5,863.20	\$5,785.37	\$4,995.10	\$5,011.80

We had a turn-in of 65 at Mazeppa which gives the Auxiliary a membership of 226 and 3.67%. There will be another bulletin for membership from Department on September 30th our District goal is 6146 memberships we still have 24 units with no membership turn-in. Some post are having membership meals and we need send those memberships to Department ASAP. If you need assistance with membership please contact myself Cindy Nelson or any of the other officers for help. Membership is one member at a time.

Thank You on behalf of Cindy Nelson.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Glenn Mueller

548 East 10th St
St Charles, MN 55972
507/932/4301 or 507/316/3977
glm01311962@gmail.com

ADJUTANT

Gary Weaver

29 North Elm Street
507/895/2818 or 507/450/9580
gweaver@acegroup.cc

EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Cody Paulson

26043 St Hwy 43
Rushford, MN 55971
507 / 450 / 9221

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Paul Spyhalski

111 Sixth St NW Austin, MN 55912
507/437/6748 or 507/279/0340
prspyhal@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP

Tim Weaver

183 N Third St
La Crescent, MN 55947
507/551/2149 or 608/498/5803
timweaver595@gmail.com

From Your SAL Commander

Hello fellow SAL members, now is the time to get your dues paid. We are only at seventeen (17) percent and in 4th place in the Detachment

Please check out both the department and District websites as they have a very large amount of valuable information in them.

Also , please take time to attend the Department Fall Conference in Pequot Lakes on October 22 thru the 24th. You will bring back a lot of great information to share with your Squadrons. This information can help you grow and get others to join. And help out.

Please keep supporting your local post and legion families.

A penny for your thoughts, wouldn't it be great to be at one hundred (100) percent membership by Christmas or 2050 members.

Please remember that we need officer lists, meeting times and meeting locations even you only meet once or twice a month.

Thanks and God Bless

Glenn Mueller

First District SAL Commander

Omelet Breakfast—LaCrescent Squadron 595, 8am to 12pm on the fourth Sunday of every other month starting with August

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT

Dennis Lewison
Adams, MN
507/440/6067

VICE—PRESIDENT

Tony Loecher
Rochester, MN
507/358/638

SECRETARY

Nancy Lewison
Adams, MN
507/440/2090

SGT AT ARMS

Spanky Carroll
Rushford, MN
507/450/0741

HISTORIAN

Karla Miller
Rushford, MN
507/459/5962

CHAPLAIN

Roe Naylor
Austin, MN
507/438/5804

ROAD CAPTAIN

Lee Dority
Austin, MN
641/210/9035

2015 FALL CONFERENCE LODGING

BREEZY POINT

Breezy Point Resort, Online reservations preferred:
www.breezypointresort.com and enter group #78864
or call 1-800-432-3777.

Standard Rooms	\$97.00
Suites & Lodges	\$139.00

Other housing available, check for pricing

Leisure Suites of Breezy Point: 888-651-5300

Pelican Motel Rooms	\$49.00
Pelican Motel Suites	\$89.00
Commander Motel Rooms	\$59.00
One Bdrm. Condos	\$99.00
Two Bdrm. Condos	\$179.00

PEQUOT LAKES

AmericInn Lodge & Suites: 888-568-8400

Two Queen or One King

Thursday	\$80.91
Friday & Saturday	\$107.91

NISSWA

Nisswa Motel: 800-254-7612

Rates (2 night minimum)	\$62.00
One night rates slightly higher	

INFORMATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE

BREEZY POINT RESORT

PEQUOT LAKES, MN

OCT 23 & 24, 2015

Official Pre-Registration

Mail to:

Legion Post 49 Fall Conference Comm.
P.O. Box 452
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

A registration fee of \$15 for each person attending is required, with the exception of Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. Please copy and send a separate form for each person. Make checks payable to **Post 49 Fall Conference Fund**.

Registration after Oct. 9 will be \$20.

Post # _____ Unit # _____ SAL # _____

District # _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If additional pre-registrations accompany this request, this form should be photocopied. The fee must be enclosed for each person (except juniors).

Sons of the American Legion

Please join us for our

4th ANNUAL OYSTER STEW & CHILI FEED

Saturday, October 17th, 2015

From 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

210 4th St NE

Just off US Hwy 218

Menu: Oyster Stew, Chili, Corn Bread, Fresh
Bread, Meat, Cheese, Dessert, Milk & Coffee

EVERYONE WELCOME!!!

**COST IS A FREE WILL DONATION TO
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
SQUADRON #52**